

0021

JK Incoming  
c/025/0005

**From:** "Thomas Stechschulte" <steck@wildblue.net>  
**To:** <daronhaddock@utah.gov>  
**Date:** 5/1/2008 8:39 PM  
**Subject:** Alton coal mine c/025/0005

Dear Sir, as a former petroleum geologist I understand the importance of the economic development of resources. I also understand that many considerations must be weighed in order for any resource development to be a wise choice. Development should not be chosen for the sake of development. Some of the more important considerations must be the environmental cost versus the overall economic gain. The area in which the coal mine is being considered is a semi-arid, fragile environment adjacent to a world treasure - Bryce National Park. I believe that the damage that will be done to the clarity of the world-renowned skies, the scarce water resources, the wildlife habitat and travel patterns, the hunting, the land itself, tourism, and the local infrastructure cannot be justified in order to develop this particular resource. Furthermore, the local economic gain will be nominal at best and will not come close to offsetting the economic loss due to the decrease in tourism, loss of plant and animal habitat, negative impact on agriculture, degradation of water resources and damage to roads and bridges. Due to the semi-arid conditions rehabilitation or restoration of the mine site will be very difficult. I strongly urge that this project is not allowed to move forward. Respectfully, Tom Stechschulte PO Box 370 Hatch, UT 84735